

All Saints Episcopal Church
132th Annual Meeting
January 28, 2024
Senior Warden's Report

“The days are long, but the years are short.” The older I get the more true that seems to be. And so here we are again at another Annual Meeting of All Saints Episcopal Church Bayside.

Looking back, I see another year of growth as a parish. Not necessarily in numbers but in ministry. I see another year of challenges. Challenges that we met head on. I see another year of faith and fellowship. I would say it has been a good year.

A few things that stand out to me this year are:

Blessing Box – this little box has become a big thing. It has become a resource for those with food insecurity. It does not make me happy that it is empty as soon as we fill it because that just shows how high the need for it is. But I am glad that we have been able to fill that need. I am grateful to everyone who has helped to support the Blessing Box throughout the year.

KB's Spaghetti Dinner – I would love it if we never had to do this event but the event is the perfect example of how All Saints supports All Saints. We talk about being a family. This event showed that we are a family. Our support of KB and her family continued throughout the year and will always continue.

Stewardship – while we have continued our acts of stewardship over the years our Stewardship Committee had not been strong. This year Karrie Sheridan spearheaded the committee and brought new life to it. We had a wonderful speaker in Rob who brought a fresh perspective to the parish on what stewardship is. We had a wonderful tea to go along with the presentation. But I think the best part was the testimonials from our own parishioners. All were heartfelt and tear jerking.

Father Byrne's sabbatical – how were we to survive six weeks without Father Byrne? Well we did. I think we carried on business as usual. Thanks to Deacon Marjorie we had Morning Prayer each Sunday. Our attendance each week did not drop, so thank you to all of the parishioners for continuing to come each week. My personal thank you to Teddy for the every Friday texts and calls. Thank you to the Vestry to continuing to do the required work during that time. And thanks to modern technology, we were able to travel with Flat Father and Slim Susan so it was like they weren't away at all.

The next one is more of a lowlight for me and I'm sure the rest of the Vestry and something that has taken up way too much of our time for more than the past year, Mosaic Church. At last year's Annual Meeting, Father, Byrne, the Vestry and I were hopeful that we were renewing our lease with Mosaic and recouping owed funds. However, by midyear it was obvious that this was not happening. With guidance from the Diocese and much consideration on the part of the Vestry, we made the decision to do the responsible thing and begin legal proceedings against

Mosaic, We retained an attorney and the court provided a judgement against Mosaic and we have an eviction date. I don't like to think of this as a win for All Saints. It has created a difficult challenge for us but I am quite sure that we will come out at the end of this challenge even better. Two years ago I started my report with the word resilience and defined it - the ability of a person to adjust to or recover readily from illness, adversity, major life changes, etc. We at All Saints are resilient. We have been for 132 years and will continue to be. Mosaic in my mind will only be added to the history of challenges All Saints has faced in 132 years of existence.

I actually saw this on Facebook – Look back and thank God, look forward and trust God. That's what we do today. I look forward to what 2024 brings to All Saints Episcopal Church Bayside.

Respectfully,
Judith Batashoff
Senior Warden